UNDP

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7517

ENGLISH

GOV

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT

(INT/92/213) - Support to Country Capacity

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	25 August 1993
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	National execution; implementation by national institutions and UN Agencies
Government implementing agency:	Various agencies
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$200 000 Source of funds: SPR
Third-party cost sharing:	$800 000 Source of funds: Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA)
Total UNDP budget:	$1 000 000

Project background

Sustainable forest ecosystems and widespread rural poverty do not long co-exist. Sixty percent of the developing world's poorest people live in highly vulnerable ecological areas and about one billion live in tropical forest areas. Short-term survival strategies of these people conflict with environmental protection. The problem is how to combine the relief of poverty with the sustainable use of natural resources in the interests of future generations. Tropical forests are extensive in almost all developing countries and intimately involved in the livelihoods of the people, especially the poorest people.

There is an acute and mounting crisis of tropical deforestation 17 million hectares are destroyed every year and much greater areas are degraded; unsustainable land use practices including lack of forest management lead to resource depletion and adverse socio-economic effects; and poverty, unemployment, migration and social instability may follow. In many developing country rural societies, women persevere in the traditional role of collecting and utilizing fuelwood and often carry the main work burden in agricultural activities. Thus, women may view the role of forests in the community's life differently than men. Women may realize more often than men the importance of forests in conserving and maintaining the natural environment. Women's participation is of paramount importance in planning and implementing forest development and conservation.

Few if any developing countries have a comprehensive and effective programme for wise use and conservation of forest resources. However, more than 70 developing countries have launched national forest programmes (NFPs). This is multi-sectoral, widely participatory approach where the Government coordinates the effective cooperation of donors as key elements.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

/...

Description of project

The programme will support country capacity building in developing countries that are managing NFPs. The programme will focus support at the country level, through UNDP's field office system, to build national capabilities and institutions to implement NFP. The country capacity building approach has been widely accepted in international forestry, as well as sustainable development cooperation. UNDP's programme will focus on countries where bilateral donors are not playing this role. A set of criteria will guide the allocation of resources and the management of the programme as follows: (a) degree of government commitment to the CCPF goals and objectives; (b) the importance of the country's forest resources; (c) the sector's contribution to the national economy and the respective development potential; (d) the severity of forest degradation and the number of people affected; (e) needs for conservation of biodiversity as well as soil and water resources; and (f) the type and extent of CCPF assistance needed.

A process of national debate and discussion of forest issues will be stimulated and serviced by those responsible for the NFP; and a means of engaging local communities in managing resources in a sustainable manner for their benefit will be vigorously pursued. The value of forests for the nation as a whole, in conserving water resources, for example, and for future generations will be analyzed and adequately factored into programmes.

Inputs

UNDP will provide national and international experts in comprehensive and participatory forest sector programming; training and support for documentation and organization of meetings, and for building national capacity to implement and monitor participatory, comprehensive forest sector programmes; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	580 000
Training	210 000
Equipment	150 000
Miscellaneous	60 000
Total	1 000 000

- - - - -